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REPORT OF CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION - FISCAL YEAR 1958

STATE	FEDERAL EMPLOY- EES ASSIGNED TO TICK ERADI- CATION	COUNTIES INCLUDED IN FEDERAL QUARANTINES	INSPECTED AND/OR DIPPED FOR TICKS Herds #	Cases	INFESTED WITH TICKS Herds	Cattle
Alabama	0.0	0	4	222,598	0	0
Arkansas	0.0	0	73	8,944	0	0
California	0.0	0	39	5,026	0	0
Florida	6.2	0	66,196	1,506,638	5	68
Louisiana	0.0	0	1,901	23,212	0	0
Mississippi	0.0	0	1,146	41,343	0	0
Texas	62.5	8	42,400	857,181	17	32
Totals For States	69.0	8	111,759	2,664,942	22	100
Puerto Rico	3.6	All	7,313	166,842	0	0
GRAND TOTALS	72.7		119,072	2,831,784	22	100*

\* Total includes: 4 Mexican Horses, 1 Mexican Steer, 1 Mexican Bull, and 1 Horse

# Number of other herds not available

Special Diseases Eradication Section

The cattle-fever tick eradication program was most active in Florida, in the buffer strip along the Texas-Mexico border and in Puerto Rico.

The following table provides a comparison of program activities between fiscal years 1958 and 1957:

	<u>Inspections or Dippings</u>	
	<u>F.Y. 1958</u>	<u>F.Y. 1957</u>
United States . . . . .	2,664,942	1,794,709
Puerto Rico . . . . .	<u>166,842</u>	<u>137,193</u>
Totals	2,831,784	1,931,902

Texas -- It will be necessary to continue work in the buffer strip along the Texas-Mexico border as long as tick infestation remains in Mexico. During fiscal year 1958, the following activities were reported in the buffer area in Texas: 224 Mexican livestock and 28 native American livestock straying into Mexico and returning were caught by tick inspectors. Of the Mexican livestock, 173 were horses of which 14 were found to be tick infested, and 51 were cattle of which 20 were infested. Animals in 17 U. S. herds were found to be infested. Infested Mexican livestock were responsible for 70 exposures to clean premises and 3 re-exposures to "held" premises. During the year 12,942 certificates were issued covering the intrastate movement of 89,673 livestock and 275 certificates were issued for the interstate movement of 7,847 animals. Also 42,255 herds of 847,659 animals were inspected for ticks, and 11,260 herds of 77,982 animals were dipped.

Florida --

In April 1957, cattle fever ticks (Boophilus microplus) were found at the Okeechobee Livestock Market at Okeechobee, Florida, by a State inspector. The last outbreak of cattle fever ticks in Okeechobee County was in the winter of 1945, when quarantines were placed on that county as well as on Glades and Highlands and parts of Osceola and Polk Counties.

Since the last infestation in Florida, cattle passing through all auctions throughout the State have been inspected routinely for ticks by experienced inspectors, and all cattle except those being sold for slaughter have also been dipped. It was as a result of this routine search for fever ticks that the ticks were found on cattle from two Okeechobee County ranches. Steps were taken immediately to treat the infested and exposed herds and place a State quarantine on the areas involved. Experienced State and Federal tick inspectors were assigned to the eradication project. Action was taken also to trace movements of animals to and from the infested herds during the last two to three years, to place the premises involved under State quarantine, and to investigate the possible source of the ticks. In all, more than 100 ranches in 10 Florida counties were placed under quarantine. State quarantines were placed on premises to which cattle had been moved from ranches where ticks were discovered and on premises that had supplied cattle to ranches known to be infested.

Altogether cattle on a total of eight premises in Okeechobee County, one premises each in Highlands and Dade Counties, and three premises in Broward, and two premises in Palm Beach Counties were found infested. The Florida Livestock Board quarantined all of Okeechobee, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties and parts of Dade and Highlands Counties. During September 1958, the last quarantine on a part of Highlands County was released. Quarantines on other areas had been lifted previously. No cattle ticks had been found for more than a year. The most recent infestation was found on September 6, 1957, in Highlands County. The ticks were eradicated by the customary systematic inspections and dippings.

Florida was the last State, with the exception of Texas where a narrow buffer zone along the international border is still infested, to be freed of fever ticks. The last Federal quarantine was lifted in December 1943.

Deer, which also served as hosts for the tropical tick, delayed the final eradication, and it was only after the Florida legislature provided proper authority to eliminate this host that the vector was finally eliminated. More than 20,000 deer were slaughtered to accomplish this end. During the 1957 outbreak, ticks from deer were examined but none were fever ticks.

During fiscal years 1947, 1948, and 1949 cattle fever ticks were found in a number of Florida counties. Systematic inspections and dippings brought the outbreaks under control, and all remaining Federal quarantines were removed in December 1950. It was not until April of last year that any additional infestation was found.

Danger of reinfestation is constantly present because of the close proximity of Florida to tick-infected countries and islands of the West Indies with which commerce is active.

The following reflects the State quarantine status of the five-county area involved in the recent outbreak;

<u>County</u>	<u>Date Quarantined</u>	<u>Date Released</u>
Broward	July 12, 1957	July 1958
Dade (1Premise)	May 6, 1957	June 1958
Highlands (Part)	September 13, 1957	September 1958
Okeechobee	April 29, 1957	July 1958
Palm Beach	July 12, 1957	July 1958

Puerto Rico -- A program in Puerto Rico which has been underway for some years is nearing completion.

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